

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application as amended, is respectfully requested.

**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-24 and 38 has been cancelled.

Claims 29 and 32 have been amended. These amendments does not add new matter.

Claims 52 and 53 have been added.

Claims 25-37 and 39-53 are pending in this application.

**II. Telephone Interview**

Applicants' Attorneys would like to thank Examiner Lam for all of the courtesies extended in the telephone interview held on December 22, 2005.

**III. Acknowledgment of allowable subject matter**

Applicants' Attorneys would like to thank the Examiner for the acknowledgment of allowable subject matter in claims 30-32. Applicants have added new claims 52 -53 which respectively place claims 30-31 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29. Applicants have amended claim 32 to depend from new independent claim 53.

**IV. Status of the Specification**

The Specification has been amended (Brief Description of the Drawings) to include the description of figure 12 submitted on May 12, 2005.

**V. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding claim 26, the Examiner states that the recitation of “the first power switch transistor is a common power switch transistor provided for the flip flop and for at least one additional flip flop” is indefinite because it is misdescriptive of the present invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that power switch transistor 303 couples the pulse generator 302 to Vss, however flip flop 301 is coupled directly to VDDL and VSS. Therefore, the Examiner states the first power switch transistor is not a common power switch transistor to the flip flop and the additional flip flop.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejection. Applicants direct the Examiner to page 10, lines 5-10 of the specification which recites *“a common power switch transistor may be provided for the flip-flop of the circuit arrangement and at least one additional flip-flop. In other words, the power switch transistor according to the invention may be formed jointly for a plurality of flip-flops, thereby reducing the area requirement of the circuit arrangement”*. Also, *“although only a single flip-flop subcircuit 301 is shown in Figure 3, the power switch subcircuit 301 may be shared by a plurality of flip-flop subcircuits 301 and/or by a plurality of pulse generator subcircuits 302.”* See, specification, page 24, lines 11-13.

Drawing figure 12 illustrates the above feature disclosed on page 10, lines 5-10 and page 24, lines 11-13 of the specification in block diagram form. Furthermore, FIGURE 12 includes the pulse generator subcircuit 302, power switch 303 and power switch subcircuit 301 which are referenced in FIGURE 3 and discussed in detail in the specification.

## **VI. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 25 and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,583,457 to Horiguchi et al. (hereinafter “Horiguchi”).

Regarding claims 25 and 27-28, the Examiner states that Horiguchi shows a circuit arrangement wherein at least one of the terminals of the switching transistors has a defined electrical potential in the operating state. Referring to Horiguchi, the Examiner states that in the standby mode the gate terminals of switching transistors MP2 and MN2 have a defined electrical potential. See Horiguchi’s CMOS inverter comprising MP2 and MN2 illustrated in FIG 29.

Applicants have amended claim 29 replacing “at least one of the terminals of the switching transistors has a defined electrical potential” with “each of the terminals of the switching transistors has a defined electrical potential.” MP2 and MN2 of Horiguchi make up a conventional CMOS inverter wherein when MP2 is turned off, MN2 is turned on (and vice versa). Horiguchi does not teach or suggest the present invention because Horiguchi’s switching transistors are not both turned on at the same time and if a transistor is in an off state an electrical potential is not defined at “each” terminal of the transistor.

Claim 25, 27 and 28 depend from amended claim 29 and are allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 29.

Claims 25, 27-28, 33-37, 45-46 and 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,500,715 to Matsuzaki et al. (hereinafter “Matsuzaki”).

Claims 25, 27-28, 33-37, 45-46 and 49-50 depend from claim 29. Claim 29 has not received a rejection under § 102(a, b or e) with respect to Matsuzaki. Under U.S. Patent Law a dependent claim is construed to contain all the limitations of the claim upon which it depends. Therefore, since claims 25, 27-28, 33-37, 45-46 and 49-50 depend from claim 29 which has not been rejected under § 102(a, b or e) to Matsuzaki, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejection.

## **VII. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 39-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Horiguchi or Matsuzaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,794,914 to Sani et al. (hereinafter “Sani”).

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Matsuzaki in view of Sani, Applicants submit the following. Claims 39-42 depend from claim 29 which has not received a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a, b or e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Matsuzaki. Under U.S. Patent Law a dependent claim is construed to contain all the limitations of the claim upon which it depends. Therefore, since claims 39-42 depend from claim 29 which has not been rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 102(a, b or e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Matsuzaki, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejection.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Horiguchi in view of Sani, Applicants submit that claims 39-42 are allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 29. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejection.

Claims 43-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Matsuzaki in view of Sani.

Claims 43-44 depend from claim 29 which has not received a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a, b or e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Matsuzaki. Under U.S. Patent Law a dependent claim is construed to contain all the limitations of the claim upon which it depends. Therefore, since claims 43-44 depend from claim 29 which has not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a, b or e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Matsuzaki, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejection.

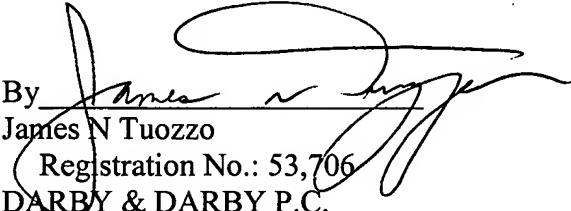
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 25-37 and 39-53 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either, a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 23, 2005

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